(b) if so, the number and details of such complaints received during the year 1993-94 ;

(c) what action has been taken on these complaints ; and

(d) what steps are being taken to see that the MSEB are supplied with good quality coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaints are being sent by MSEB several authorities including Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller, Coal India Limited (CIL), Western Coalfields Ltd., etc. The information regarding total number of such complaints is not available. These complaints mainly relate to presence of extraneous materials in coal as also over-sized, sticky and muddy coal.

(c) and (d) The complaints are examined on merits of each case. Wherever grade slippages are established, the State Electricity Board is charged only for the lower grade.

In the process of mining of coal especially in opencast mines, some stones/shales/extraneous materials may get mixed up with coal. Following steps are being taken by coal companies to improve the quality of coal sent to consumers including Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

(i) An Action Plan for installation of Feeder Breakers and Coal Handling Plants is being implemented to ensure quality of coal.

(ii) Stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.

(iii) Slow moving picking belts are being provided in Coal Handling Plants for manual picking of shale and stone pieces.

(iv) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(v) Appropriate steps have been and are being taken to ensure quality and quantity at pit-head or rail/road siding (at loading point) to avoid any subsequent complaints resulting in disputes between buyers and sellers.

(vi) Consumers, including MSEB, can post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality of coal.

Recovery of arrears from MSEB

1860. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total amount of arrears on account of coal supplied to Maharashtra State Electricity Board as on 1st February, 1994 ;

(b) what is being done to recover these arrears ;

(c) what mechanism is being worked out to see that arrears do not accrue beyond a certain limit ; and

(d) whether any interest is being charged on these arrears, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR (PANJA) : (a) to (c) As on 31st January. 1994 the total outstanding dues payable to Coal India Limited (CIL) by Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) for coal supplied were Rs. 423.44 crores (provisional), out of which Rs. 181.16 crores were disputed. The disputed amounts mainly relate to shortages and quality problems.

Following steps are being taken by CIL/Government to contain and recover outstanding dues from power utilities :

(i) Government of India have already decided to adjust all undisputed coal sales outstanding as on 31-5-1990 against the Central Assistance to State Plans, payable to concerned State Governments.

(ii) Ministry of Coal has advised CIL to start supplying coal to power houses only against advance payments.

(iii) Ministries of Power and Coal are holding periodical discussions with defaulting State Electricity Boards to clear outstanding dues of CIL.

(iv) Coal companies are also holding discussions with State Electricity Boards to reconcile the outstandings and persuade them to make payments.

(d) Coal India Ltd. have been billing interest on outstanding dues. However State Electricity Boards have been resisting payments of interest.

भावनगर जिले में कोयला और लिग्नाइट के भंडारों के संबंध में सर्वेक्षण

1861. **श्री चिनमभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल** : क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने सौराष्ट्र के भावनगर जिले के कुछ संस्थानों पर कोयला और लिग्नाइट के भंडारों के सम्बन्ध में कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) और (ख) भू-गर्भीय एवं खनन निदेशालय, गुजरात द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार वे वर्ष 1988 से गुजरात के भावनगर जिले के लिग्नाइट धारक क्षेत्रों का अन्वेषण कर रहे हैं। भावनगर जिले के निम्न गावों—मिथी, बिरदी, लखनका, खरझालिया, होईवाद, थलसार, सुरखा, रामपुर आदि क्षेत्रों में अभी तक लिग्नाइट के भंडार पाए गए हैं। भावनगर जिले में कोयले के कोई भी भंडार मिलने की सूचना नहीं मिली है।

Cost of production of coal fields

1862. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the unit cost of production of coal per tonne from various coal fields ;

(b) what is the sale price ; and

(c) what are the outstanding losses of coal mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) The average costs of production of coal in different coal companies during 1992-93 were as under:—

(In Rs./tonne)

Company	Average cost of production
Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL)	597.90
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL)	499.06
Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL)	313.00
Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL)	239.37
Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL)	354.52
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL)	255.46
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL)	148.65
Average cost of production in Caol India Limited (CIL)	334.31
Average cost of production in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL)	491.98